

Policy Implication 1.1

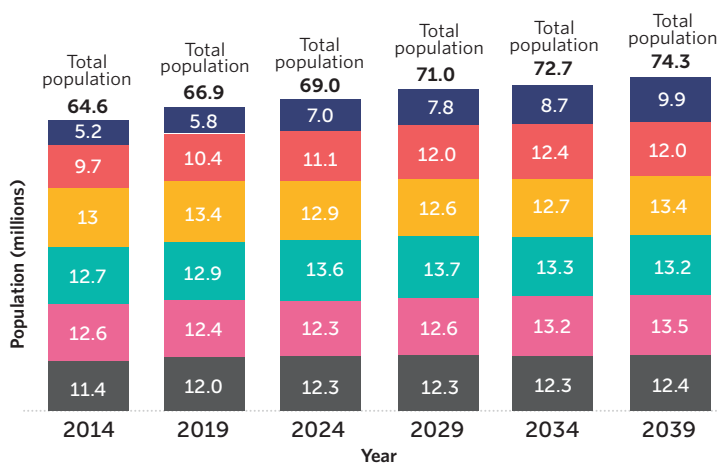
The UK population is ageing, the result of increased life expectancy from reduced mortality, large post-war birth cohorts ageing and falling fertility.

There may be a lower proportion of individuals to pay taxes, work and provide care for those who need it.



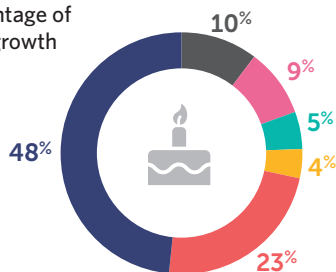
70% of all population growth to 2039 is projected to be in the 60+ age group.

Population Projections (Millions)



Age group: ● 0-14 ● 15-29 ● 30-44 ● 45-59 ● 60-74 ● 75+

Percentage of total growth



Of the **9.8m** additional people in the ONS Central Forecast to 2039,



7.0m of them are over 60

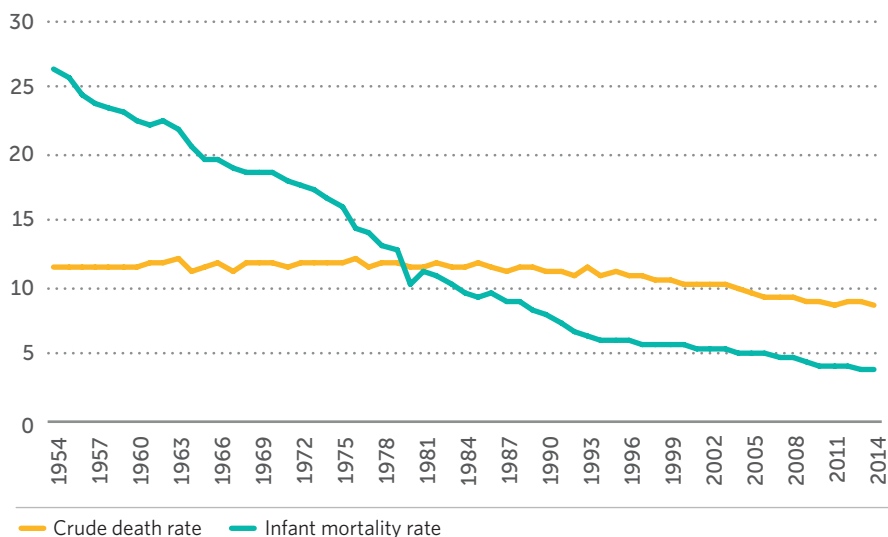
Source: ONS (2014) Population projections by age



The UK has experienced falling mortality rates with a lower crude death rate and dramatically lower infant mortality rate.

Declines in mortality among the oldest old have been striking with the mortality rate for females in their early 80s, for example, in the UK declining from about 120 per 1000 population in the 50s to 75 by the 90s.

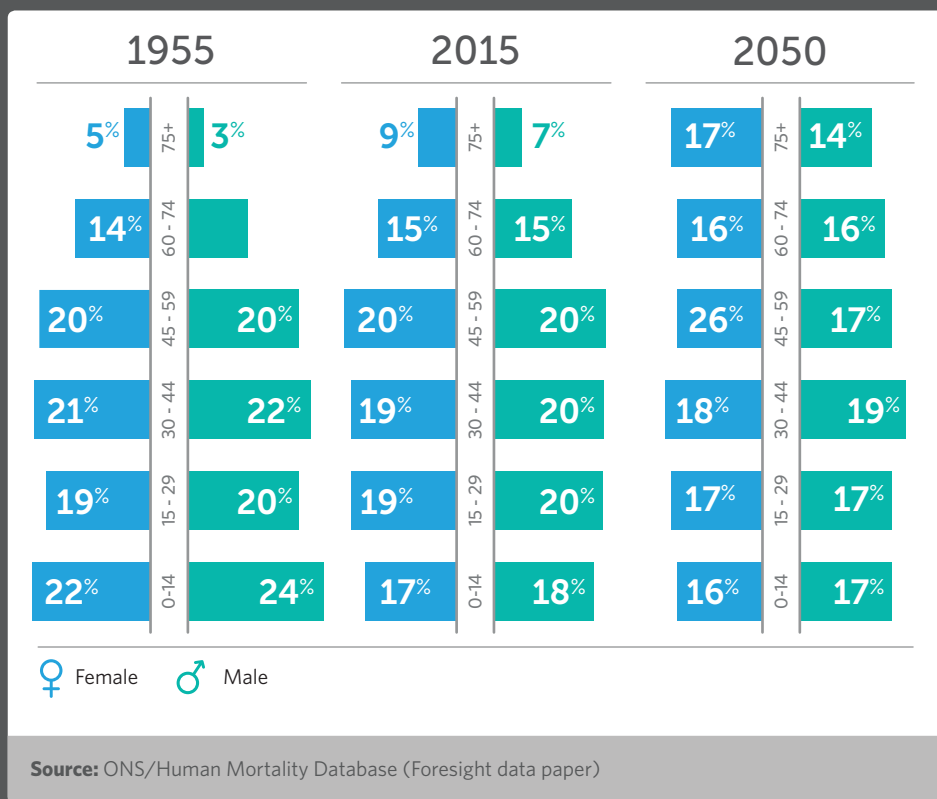
 **Crude death rate (per 1000 population) and infant mortality rate (deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births) in the UK, 1954-2014**



Source: ONS (2015) Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables



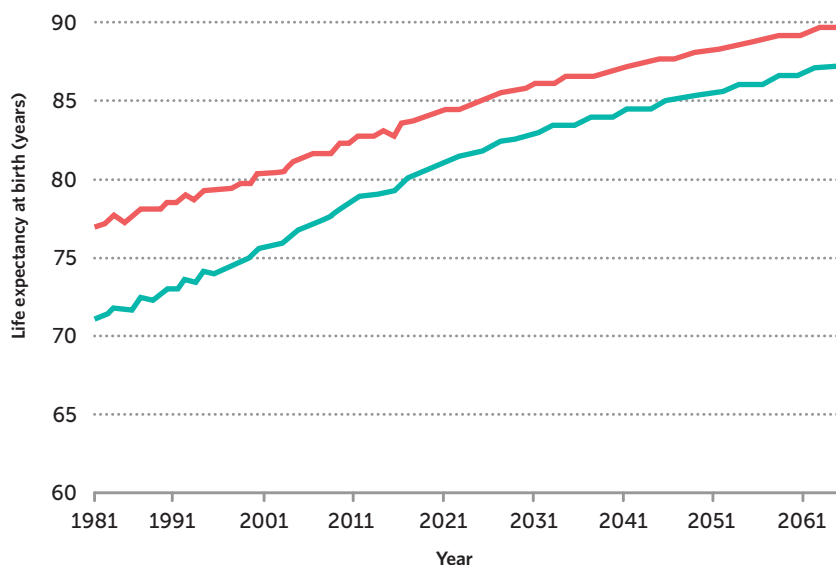
The UK population is expected to continue to change dramatically in the future, with the proportions in younger age groups continuing to decline and those in later-life age groups increasing.



Increased life expectancy is a historic trend, and is projected to carry on increasing.



Historic and projected life expectancy at birth in the UK, 1981-2064



Gender: ● Men ● Women

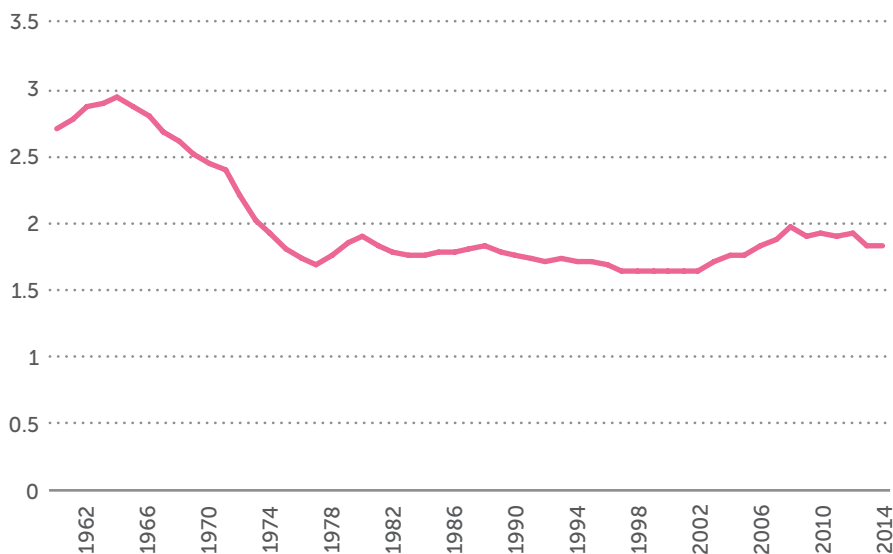
Source: ONS (2015) Past and projected data from the period and cohort life tables: 2014-based, UK, 1981 to 2064



Fertility in the UK fell to below replacement level by the 1970s, remaining fairly stable since then.



Total fertility rate in the United Kingdom, 1960-2014



Source: ONS (2015) Vital Statistics - Population and Health Reference Tables

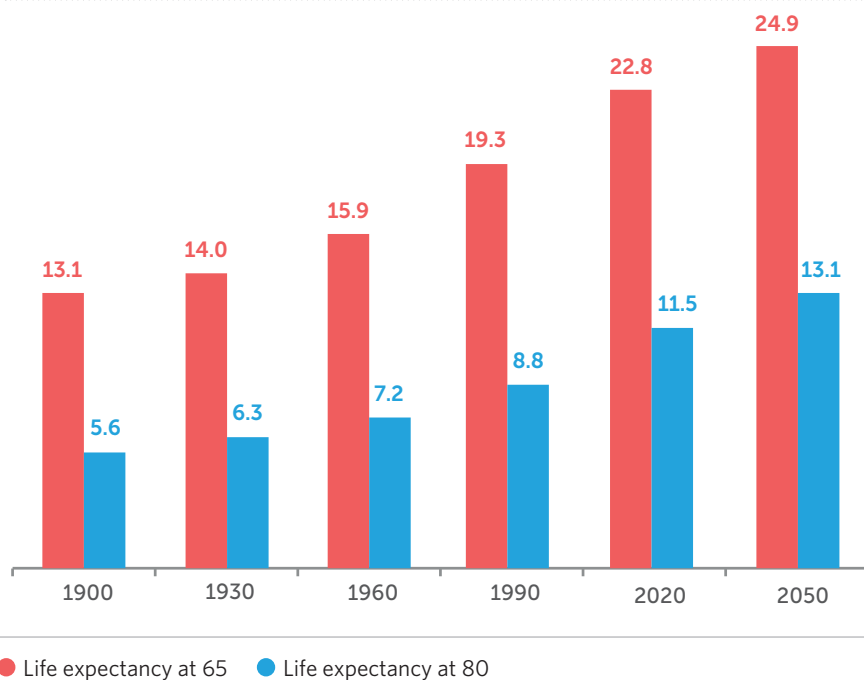


There have been specific gains in life expectancy at 65 and 80, which are expected to continue.

Life expectancy at 65 and 80 began to increase rapidly in the second half of the 20th Century.



Historic and projected life expectancy at 65 and 80 in the UK




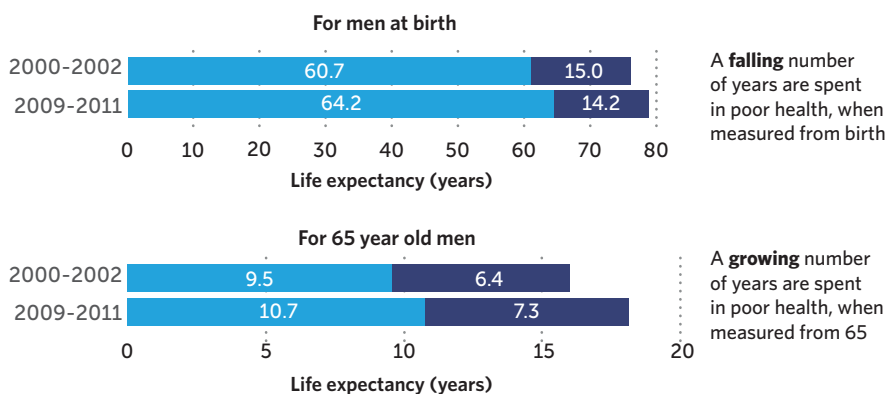
Source: Data from the Human Mortality Database and ONS Projections



During the first decade of the 21st century, healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth rose by more than life expectancy, suggesting people are spending less time in ill health.

However, increases in HLE and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at ages 65 and 85 are not keeping pace with improvements in Life Expectancy. This suggests that real health improvements are experienced by the younger, rather than the older, population.

 **Number of years gained in life expectancy (LE) and healthy life expectancy (HLE) between 2002 and 2011**



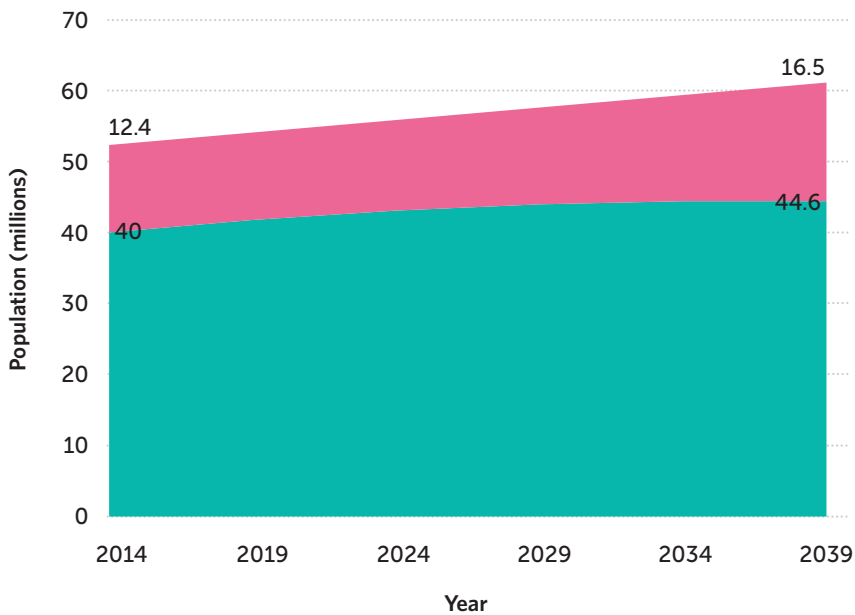
Health status: ● Years in 'Good' health (HLE) ● Years in 'Not good' health

Source: ONS (2014) Health Expectancies at Birth and Age 65 in the United Kingdom, 2009-11

The number of pensioners is increasing faster than the number of working age people.



Estimates and projections of UK working and pensionable age populations, 2014-2039



Life stage: ● Working age ● Pension age

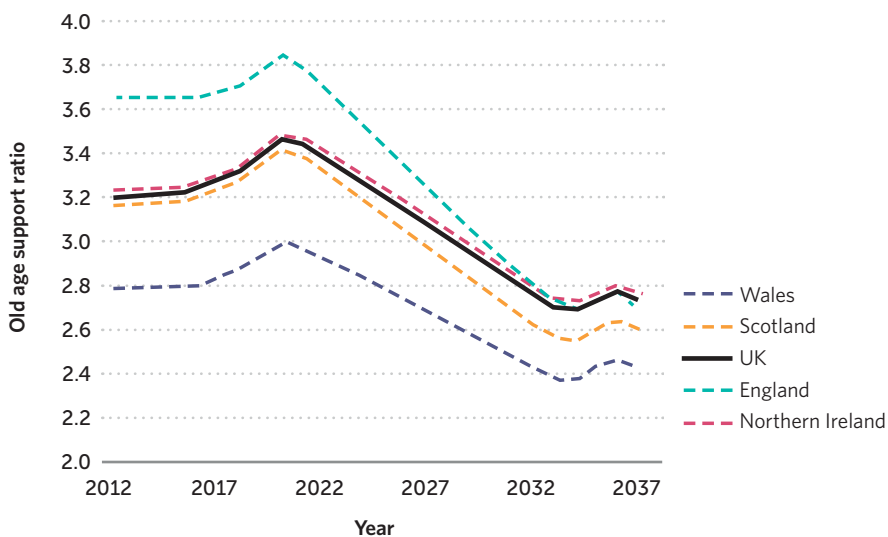
Source: ONS (2014) National Population Projections: 2014-Based Statistical Bulletin



The old age support ratios are projected to vary between the UK's devolved administrations.



Estimates and projections of old age support ratios (number of working age people divided by number of people eligible for the state pension), UK 2012-2037



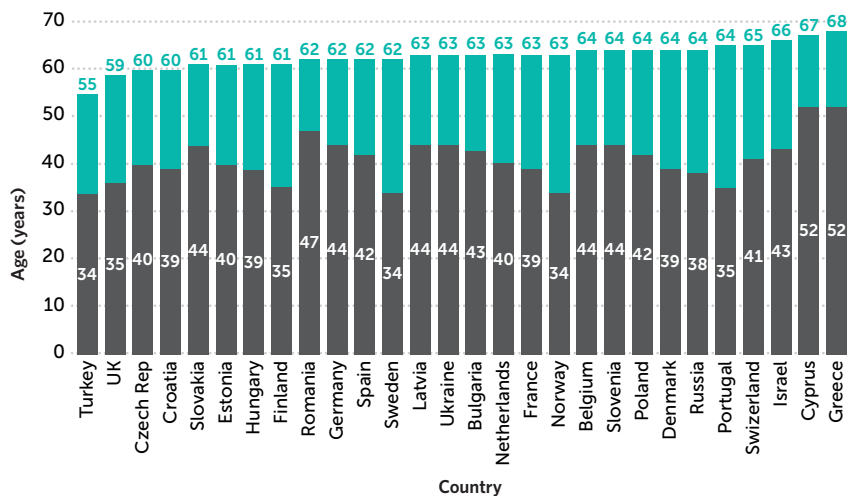
Source: ONS (2015) Old age dependency ratio figures



Perceptions of old age vary considerably between countries. In the UK, old age is perceived to begin at 59 – the second youngest of the countries surveyed.



Perceived age at which youth ends and old age starts



Perception of life stage transition:

- End of youth
- Start of old age

Source: DWP (2011) Predictors of attitudes to age across Europe



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